A detailed list is given in the Annexure showing the number of students. [*See* Appendix 198, Annexure No. 18]

(c) Every efforts is being made to improve the standard of education. This is an ongoing process.

Modernisation of Indian Navy

4203. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Navy required modernisation and better equipments;

(b) the amount spent on modernisation of Indian Navy each year during the last five years;

(c) the amount returned unutilized by the Ministry of Defence during the last financial year; and

(d) why was the amount not utilized for the purpose mentioned in (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Modernisation and induction of better equipments is an ongoing process dictated primarily by the threat perceptions, prevailing external strategic/security environment as also the emerging technologies.

(b) The amount spent on modernisation of the Navy in last five years is as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

1998-1999	Rs. 2673.98
1999-2000	Rs. 2943.75
2000-2001	Rs. 3396.94
2001-2002	Rs. 4435.87
2002-2003	Rs. 3810.53

(c) Rs. 1504.47 crores, as per provisional figures.

(d) Rs. 1504.47 crores savings mentioned in part (c) above occurred due to slow progress in some projects.

Protection of Indian assets in Arabian Sea

4204. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether our armed forces have been put on alert to provide protection, security and escort to Indian assets in the Arabian Sea and evacuate Indian Nationals in the event of a war;

(b) whether India has offered its services on formation of a peace keeping force based in Lebanon; and

(c) whether India has made any independent assessment of the likely duration of the war and its fall out in the SE Asian region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Government had drawn up a contingency plan for evacuation of Indians in Kuwait through Saudi Arabia, if necessary. However, there was no need to evacuate any Indians.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Production of Light Combat Aircraft and its Components

4205. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether successful testing of prototypes of indigenously built Light Combat Aircraft has reached production state;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Praga Tools Ltd. at Secunderabad, A.P. is having technicians and suitable technical equipments to manufacture any component parts pertaining to Light Combat Aircraft;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if so, the reasons for the Defence Ministry in not making use of Praga Tools Ltd. for the production of component parts of Light Combat Aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme is in development stage and flight testing on two technology demonstrators of LCA is under progress. Sanction has been accorded for building 5 prototypes of LCA for accelerating flight testing to reach the production stage.